



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 1ST BATTALION, 34TH INFANTRY REGIMENT
5500 MARION AVENUE
FORT JACKSON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29207-5200



24 January 2011

Dear Family and Friends of Soldiers of the *Leyte Dragons* of 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment (1-34 IN Regt)

Greetings from Fort Jackson!

You and your guests are invited to attend the graduation events at Fort Jackson, South Carolina on January 26th and January 27th, 2011. Over the past several weeks, your Soldier has made significant progress in the important areas of discipline, character, values, marksmanship, physical and mental conditioning, and teamwork, bringing them one step closer to their goal of graduating Basic Combat Training. No doubt, the prospect of this achievement makes you very proud and we hope you will join us in the celebration of your Soldier's accomplishments. We would like for you to share in the spirit of patriotism and express camaraderie with your Soldier as well as the Families of other Soldiers from across the Nation. Make a day of it and witness your Soldier's tremendous accomplishments. We invite you to Fort Jackson for a fun-filled day to see what Army Basic Combat Training is all about! ***WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR ARRIVAL!***

The graduation events span two days, with Family Day on Wednesday and then the Graduation ceremony on Thursday. This will be an exciting time for the Soldiers and yourselves and we trust your Soldiers will be in good hands during these two special events.

Family Day will take place at the Solomon Center, scheduled to begin at **12:00pm for Aco, Bco, and Cco and 13:00pm for Dco, Eco, and Fco on Wednesday, January 26th, 2011.** There will be a short series of military orientation speeches by the Battalion and Company Commanders, and spokespersons from the Red Cross and Army Community Services. Upon completion of the speeches, you will meet with your Soldier. Your Soldier may then be authorized a pass, allowing you to spend the remainder of the day with them while experiencing the amenities and military life on the installation (see Note 1). ***Please monitor our facebook site:** <http://www.facebook.com/134AlwaysForward> for any changes.

On **Wednesday** evening, we will also host a graduation banquet in your Soldier's honor, either at the Officers club or NCO Club. I hope you can join your Soldier at this meal and meet their Drill Sergeants.

The 1-34th Infantry Regiment **Graduation Ceremony** will take place at **Hilton Field at 13:00 pm on Thursday afternoon, January 27th, 2011.** This is when your Soldier will officially join the long line of distinguished men and women who, since 1775, have defended our freedom. We expect to graduate approximately 1160 Soldiers. In case of inclement weather, graduation will be held at the Solomon Center (SAC). Map of Fort Jackson and all graduation activities location will be provided at the front gate. **Due to limited seating** in the SAC, the graduation ceremony will be held at various times. The graduation time for **Alpha and Bravo Companies** will be **1000am – 1100am** and **Charlie and Delta Company** will be from **11:30am – 12:30am** and **Echo and Fox Company** will be from **13:00am – 14:00am.**

Upon conclusion of the Graduation on **Thursday, January 27th**, Soldiers with Family members present may depart after receiving their departure instructions / briefing from their Company Commander (see Note 2). Those Soldiers accompanied by Family but not departing immediately may be granted a pass to visit the surrounding Columbia area (see Note 3).

We request you stop sending mail to your Soldier two weeks prior to graduation. Fort Jackson is the largest training facility in the Armed Forces and we process countless pieces of mail daily. It will be in everyone's best interest if you wait until your Soldier reaches his or her next duty assignment before you send mail, otherwise your Soldier may not receive it before graduation. Even next day air or priority mail may not reach your Soldier in time.

Upon arrival through Gate 4 at exit 12, if you have any additional vehicles with Family members, you can receive a vehicle pass by showing a valid driver's license and vehicle registration with insurance to the Officer's on duty. It is very important for you to continue confirming your Soldier's progression (i.e. graduation status) through

Basic Combat Training. Occasionally, a Soldier's graduation date is delayed due to an injury, illness, or training requirement. Sometimes a Soldier may graduate a week early to meet subsequent Advanced Individual Training (AIT) requirements. We will tell your Soldier to inform you as to whether or not they have met all graduation requirements before you travel to Fort Jackson. However, often Soldiers choose to inform spouses and significant others instead of informing all family members of their graduation status. That, we have no control over but ask that you continuously write and ask that your Soldier keep, you up to date on their graduation status.

If you have questions or need more information, visit our web site at <http://www.facebook.com/134AlwaysForward> or send an email to ATZJ-C-F@conus.army.mil. If sending an email, please includes the Company your Soldier is assigned to; we have nearly 1200 Soldiers assigned and this will assist in alleviating confusion.

I hope to see you at our graduation events. Our Battalion motto is "Always Forward!"—You will hear your Soldier say that phrase often when you arrive!

Always Forward!

//Original Signed//
MICHAEL D. MCINTOSH
CSM, USA
Command Sergeant Major

//Original Signed//
QUINCY E. NORMAN
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
Commanding

4 Enclosures:

1. 1-34th Infantry Battalion General Information
2. Family Checklist
3. Vehicle Travel Information Letter
4. Fort Jackson Map

Enclosure 1: **1-34th INFANTRY REGIMENT GENERAL INFORMATION**

Location: Fort Jackson is located in Columbia, South Carolina, near the Interstate 77 and Interstate 20 intersection.

Hotel Information: Lodging near Fort Jackson is limited, so make your reservations as soon as possible. Call the Solomon Activity Center (SAC), 1-800-221-3503 for Hotel referrals.

1st Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment Headquarters is located within walking distance of the SAC and parking is available in the SAC parking lot. Although public parking is not available at the Battalion Headquarters, you may drop off and pick up guests that require assistance in the front of the battalion outside of the barricades.

Note 1: Family Day Passes: Following the Family Day Ceremony, Soldiers may be granted a pass to visit any on-post facility on **Wednesday, January 26th, 2011**. These facilities include the Officer's or NCO Clubs, the Solomon Center, the Post Exchange (PX), the Museum, and other common areas. The approval authority for these passes is the Soldier's chain of command; please confirm if your Soldier is authorized a pass. Soldiers must return to the barracks no later than **10:00 pm**. **Soldiers will not be authorized to depart the post for any reason.**

Note 2: Graduation Day Pass for Soldiers departing immediately for AIT: Those Soldiers being transported by privately own vehicle may depart after graduation with their parent or guardian upon receiving a briefing from their Company Commander. The Soldier will be charged leave based on authorized travel time to their designated Advanced Individual Training (AIT) location.

Note 3: Graduation Day Pass for Soldiers NOT departing with Family members: Following Graduation on **Thursday, January 27th, 2011**, Soldiers accompanied by immediate Family may be granted a pass to visit the surrounding Columbia area; please confirm if your Soldier is authorized a pass. All Soldiers on pass must return to the barracks at a time specified by their company chain of command, not to be later than **8:00 pm** on Thursday, January 27th. Soldiers begin travel to Advanced Individual Training (AIT) from **January 28th to January 29th**.

Note 4: Cellular Telephones and Other Personal Electronic Devices: The following restrictions apply to all persons who operate a vehicle of any type while on the Installation.

- No vehicle operator shall use a cellular telephone or any other personal electronic device in any form or manner unless safely parked.
- No vehicle operator shall wear portable headphones(s), earphone(s), or any other listening device unless safely parked.

Personal electronic device(s) are defined as: Any cellular telephone (to include "hands free" devices), any personal data assistant, any device that performs computer functions, any device that sends or receives electronic mail, any device that plays a video game, any device that plays videos of any kind, any device that transmits television images.

***** In the interest of safety, we ask that during your time here, you do not visit ranges, training areas, bivouac sites, training facilities or any other site posted as a restricted area.

Soldiers on pass on the 26th or 27th of January must **not**: **Wear civilian clothes; Consume alcohol; Drive a vehicle; Smoke; Wear headphones in uniform; or do anything to delay their shipment to Advanced Individual Training (AIT).** Violating these restrictions may subject the Soldier to punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Enclosure 2: FAMILY CHECKLIST

FAMILY MEMBER NAME _____

(Please print)

_____ Driver's License-Photo ID/current Vehicle Registration/current Insurance Card

_____ Contact phone number while traveling: (_____) _____
(Area code)

_____ The vehicle being used to transport my Soldier is mechanically in good/safe operable condition with no known safety hazards.

_____ The vehicle is equipped with operable seat belts and that all passengers will utilize seat belts while traveling.

_____ Soldiers traveling in a vehicle:

- Are not allowed to consume any alcoholic beverage during transit.
- Are not allowed to consume any tobacco product during transit.
- Are not allowed to operate a motor vehicle while in transit to their block leave location.
- Must wear their ACU (Army Combat Uniform) at all times until they reach their leave destination.
- **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL SOLDIERS DRINK ALCOHOL WHILE IN UNIFORM.**

_____ We will ensure our Soldier arrives at the designated Advanced Individual Training (AIT) post by the date, time, and location specified on their official military orders.

_____ In the event of a traffic delay, motor vehicle accident, inclement weather delay or medical emergency, I understand that I, or my Soldier must contact the losing and gaining unit, notifying both units of the reason for delay and provide arrival date and time

_____ In the event of a medical emergency, I will take my Soldier to the nearest civilian or military hospital and notify both the losing and gaining unit.

_____ In the event of the death of my Soldier, I will contact the nearest American Red Cross Office.

ENCLOSURE 3: Vehicle Travel Information Letter

Dear Family Member,

You may also choose to drive your Soldier, immediately following the graduation ceremony, from Fort Jackson to your holiday destination, then onward to a designated post in the United States in order for them to complete Advanced Individual Training (AIT). Transporting your Soldier is strictly a personal choice and not an obligation. Only a parent, legal guardian, spouse or other immediate family member (brother, sister, aunt, uncle, grandparent) over the age of 18 may transport your Soldier. Please understand that only your Soldier will be reimbursed for a portion of this travel.

Below is a list of common AIT locations, the number of miles to that post, and the number of travel days your Soldier is allowed. If you choose to transport your Soldier, please have your Soldier contact the Company Commander or First Sergeant as soon as possible; if you chose not to transport your Soldier other travel arrangements will be provided.

**LIST OF ADVANCED INDIVIDUAL TRAINING SITES
FOR TRAVEL BY SOLDIERS IN A PRIVATELY OWNED VEHICLE**

<u>INSTALLATION</u>	<u>MILES</u>	<u>TRAVEL DAYS ALLOWED</u>
ABERDEEN PROVING GROUNDS, MARYLAND	519	2
FORT BELVOIR (Alexandria), VIRGINIA	451	2
FORT BENNING (Columbus), GEORGIA	283	1
FORT BRAGG (Fayetteville), NORTH CAROLINA	165	1
FORT EUSTIS (Newport News), VIRGINIA	390	2
FORT GORDON (Augusta), GEORGIA	76	1
GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI	599	2
FORT LEE (Richmond), VIRGINIA	332	1
FORT MEADE (Annapolis), MARYLAND	481	2
NAVAL AMPHIBIOUS BASE (Little Creek), NORFOLK, VA	370	2
PENSACOLA, FLORIDA	496	2
REDSSTONE ARSENAL (Huntsville), ALABAMA	407	2
FORT RUCKER (Euphala), ALABAMA	383	2